

**From:** Bowers, Eric  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:06am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it May Concern;

I would like to make the following comments regarding the Microsoft settlement.

The PFJ erodes the Applications Barrier to Entry in two ways: First, by forbidding retaliation against OEMs, ISVs, and IHVs who support or develop alternatives to Windows. Secondly, by taking various measures to ensure that Windows allows the use of non-Microsoft middleware. A third option not provided by the PFJ would be to make sure that Microsoft raises no artificial barriers against non-Microsoft operating systems which implement the APIs needed to run application programs written for Windows.

It is my opinion that the Proposed Final Judgment as written allows and encourages significant anticompetitive practices to continue, would delay the emergence of competing Windows-compatible operating systems, and is therefore not in the public interest. It should not be adopted without substantial revision to address these problems.

Eric Bowers  
PC Support Specialist  
Cooper Bussmann, Black Mountain, NC  
Phone: 828-669-6482 ext. 180

> \*\*\*\*\*

The opinions expressed are mine and not necessarily those of Cooper Bussman, Inc.